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The rich man alone can afford to plant rubber. Certainly, some one must do it, and at once, if the world is to be supplied. With the full yield from every tree now in cultivation, there will not be enough from such a source, with the wild tree out, to supply one large city. For the rich man who wants a safe investment paying a fair rate of interest there could be no better opportunity than to plant rubber.

This incontrovertible fact stands out; it costs \$1 (and in many cases much more) to bring the cultivated tree to its seventh year. The tree then gives but four and one-sixteenth ounces of rubber; after deducting the cost of gathering the rubber and caring for the plantation and after the seven years of waiting the return only then begins to be 6 per cent. on the investment.

THE PARTITION OF SAKHALIN.

One of the results of the Treaty of Peace between Japan and Russia was the partition of Sakhalin, so that the southern part of the island has come into the possession of Japan. Our map shows the boundary between the Japanese and Russian territories. It is a line coinciding with the Fiftieth parallel of north latitude. As the northern or Russian part of Sakhalin is wider than the southern part, Russia retains more than one-half of the area, and, as far as is yet known, the larger area of coal fields, which thus far appear to be the most important source of mineral wealth.

Japan's territory, on the other hand, being farther south, is somewhat superior in climatic conditions, and therefore in agricultural prospects. There is little opportunity, however, for very important farming development, as the growing season is too short, even in the south, to mature cereals, though large quantities of other vegetable food may be raised.

The great attraction of the island for the Japanese was the fishing-banks along parts of the coasts, which are rich in fish food, and may be developed into fisheries of very large importance. Our map shows the portions of the coast-line where these fisheries are of most value; and it will be observed that the most extensive of the fishing-grounds have come into possession of the Japanese. Another source of wealth by which the Japanese will profit is the fur animals, and especially the sable. As yet the forests of Sakhalin have been little hunted for them, though the leading fur animals of Siberia

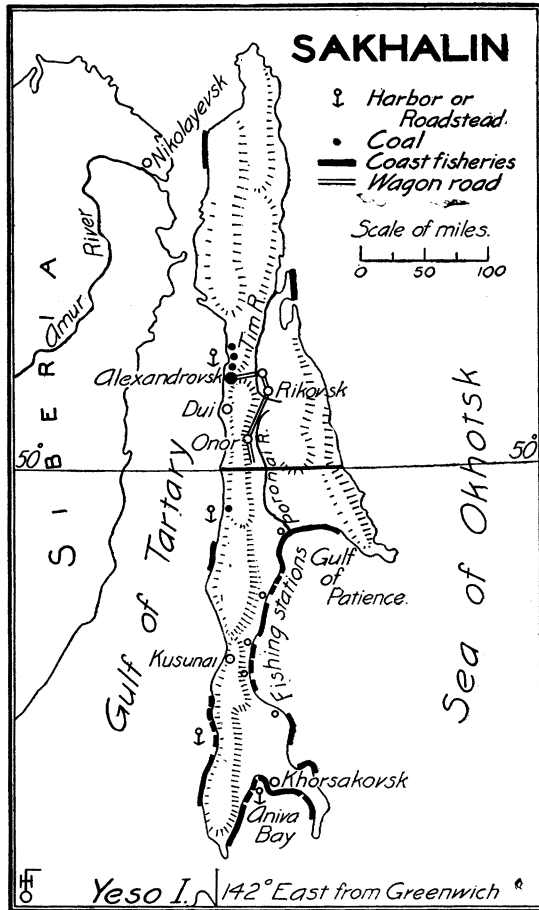
abound there. Before the treaty of peace was signed the Japanese, between July 7 and 12 last, landed troops in sufficient number to take effective possession of the entire southern coast.

In the northwest part of the map is Nicolaievsk, in Siberia, which promises some day to be of considerable importance as the seaport of the Amur River.

Sakhalin lies off the east coast of Siberia between latitudes $45^{\circ} 54'$ and $54^{\circ} 24'$ N. Lat., and is separated from the mainland by the Gulf and Strait of Tartary, the latter being very narrow at about latitude 52° and full of sand banks. It is about 600 miles long and from 16 to 100 miles wide. A mountainous ridge runs along the island for the whole of its length, flanked by low sandstone hills to the east and west but of greater extent on the east. There are two principal rivers, both reaching the sea on the east:

the Tim, flowing northward into Nyi Bay to the Okhotsk Sea, and the Poronai, flowing southward into Patience Gulf towards the Pacific.

Mr. L. V. Dalton, who has recently visited the island, writes to the *Asiatic Quarterly Review* that, contrary to the general view, much of the summer weather is the finest that could be wished for,



while the winters, though cold, are dry and healthful, like those of Canada. Three-fourths of the island is covered with dense pine forests. In the north are also the larch and birch, while in the south are the maple, oak, ash, bambob, corktree, and other sub-tropical trees or shrubs. The fauna includes the bear, fox, sable, wolves, reindeer, and the small striped squirrel of northern India, while in the rivers or along parts of the coast seal, salmon, and more southern fish abound. The spouting of Greenland whales is no uncommon sight on the coast washed by the Okhotsk Sea.

The total number of inhabitants is about 36,000, of whom only 4,000 are natives. Nearly all the present white population consists of convicts and Russian officials and soldiers. The Russians are for the most part confined to two districts—one around Alexandrovsk on the west coast, and the other around Khorsakovsk on Aniva Bay in the extreme south of the island. A few settlements are scattered up and down outside these areas, but the principal prisons are at Alexandrovsk and Khorsakovsk, with a large sub-prison at Rikovsk east of Alexandrovsk.

The native population is composed of about 2,000 Gilyaks, 1,300 Ainus, 750 Orotchons, and 200 Tungus. Scanty though the population is for the size of the island, Sakhalin has no lack of resources, vegetable, animal, and mineral. The coal of the Dui-Alexandrovsk mines has been worked for many years, and gold and other metals occur at many points, though an obstacle in the way of mining is the fact that in the northern forests the soil is frozen below a depth of four feet the year around.

Mr. Dalton expresses the view that the annexation of the southern part of the island by Japan will materially benefit the country, as it means that the convict settlement there will be abolished; and as the convicts have had no interest in promoting the development of the island's resources, Sakhalin has not been helped by their presence.

UNIFORMITY IN MOUNTAIN ELEVATIONS.

BY

PROF. ANGELO HEILPRIN.

In a paper entitled "The Accordance of Summit Levels among Alpine Mountains," and published in the *Journal of Geology* for February-March, 1905, Mr. Reginald A. Daly presents some interesting considerations bearing upon one of the most obscure of geo-